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REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Costa Rica*: draft resolution

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, by which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General,[1] the related recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[2] and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

1. Reaffirms that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of:

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] A/51/289.

[2] A/51/16 (Parts I and II).

[3] A/51/720.

(a) A preliminary estimate of resources to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(b) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(c) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(d) The size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

2. Also reaffirms that the outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium, promote a greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process and thereby facilitate the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

3. Takes note of the reports of the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

4. Invites the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999 on the basis of the total preliminary estimate of 2,608,274,000 United States dollars at initial 1996-1997 rates, recosted to 2,574,366,000 dollars at revised 1996-1997 rates;

5. Decides that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate at 1998-1999 rates, namely at 20.1 million dollars;

6. Notes that the Secretary-General's proposed budget outline for 1998-1999 contains a provision of 85 million dollars for special missions, which represents a serious departure from current budgetary practice, and decides that no provision for mandates yet to be approved should be included in the budget outline for 1998-1999;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to submit, in the context of his proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999, the following information:

(a) The rates of exchange and inflation used in the outline;

(b) The outputs deferred, postponed or curtailed in 1996-1997;

(c) The amount related to the proposed 6.4 per cent vacancy rate;

(d) The total number of posts for the biennium;

(e) The impact of activities approved in 1996-1997 that would continue in 1998-1999.